

LIBRARY

AC 4421(1) ST ALBANS

4.2
6/20/87

ST. ALBANS CITY

AND

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1951

ST. ALBANS CITY
AND
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND
THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1951

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

ST. ALBANS CITY

Councillor Miss M. Barnard (*Chairman*)
Alderman J. Baum
Alderman R. E. Holdham
Councillor Mrs. S. E. Dunham
Councillor The Rev. A. M. Fergusson, M.A.
Councillor T. T. Jarman (*Vice-Chairman*)
Councillor W. J. Lomas
Councillor C. C. Stockdale
Councillor S. J. Tacchi

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Mr. P. J. Wood (*Chairman*)
Mr. J. V. Smith (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr. E. G. Bishop
Mrs. M. V. S. Cory-Wright
Mr. C. W. Daniels
Mr. H. Harborough
Mr. J. Harding
Mr. A. J. Hopkins
Mr. A. G. Jenkins
Mr. C. W. Lane
Mr. J. Pearce
Mr. T. Sparrow
Mrs. M. Young

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

ST. ALBANS CITY : *Staff*.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

H. D. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

F. H. A. BURTON, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. W. McHUGO, F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst (Part-time).

MISS P. M. CURRY,
Secretary.

MISS I. V. YOUNG,
Clerk.

R. H. FOX,
Sanitary Assistant.

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL : *Staff*.

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Cleansing Superintendent.

W. A. BEERE, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

A. G. PAINE,
Chief Clerk.

MISS M. WARD,
Assistant Clerk.

ARTHUR HOWE,
Cleansing Foreman.

Health Department,
15, Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

June 1952.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans
and the Chairmen and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural
District Council.*

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1951.

The health of the city and rural district remained good throughout the year. We had only one case of Poliomyelitis and one of Diphtheria. The incidence of Whooping Cough and Measles was considerably lower than last year.

The demand for hospital beds for confinements remained very high and as long as it is to the financial advantage of the patient to have her confinement in hospital it will remain so. Yet child-birth is not a disease—it is a perfectly natural process and should not require hospital treatment.

I would submit that there should be no financial inducement to enter hospital for confinement or any other cause and to that end a “board and lodging” payment should be imposed on all hospital in-patients. The few cases who could not pay this should be referred to the Public Assistance Officer.

In order to make the best of the limited number of beds available all cases with medical reasons requiring admission are referred to the Osterhills Ante-natal Clinic and all cases with “social” reasons are referred to me. The standard allowing admission on “social” reasons varies from month to month. The medical cases must be admitted and in each month there are only a certain but varying number of beds available for “social” cases. This causes some feeling that the system is unfair. Mrs. X whose housing conditions are worse than Mrs. Y hears Mrs. Y has been accepted for hospital confinement and she, Mrs. X refused, but Mrs. Y is due in, say, September when the medical cases are few, and Mrs. X in November when medical cases are numerous. Further the need for “social” conditions varies from month to month and this fact also has to be taken into account in assessing who should be admitted.

There are also a few cases on the border line for both medical and social reasons and these are discussed at a meeting between myself and the hospital obstetrician.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in the preparation of the statistics for this report and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	44,240	28,490
Area (in acres)	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:—		
Dwelling Houses	12,375	6,725
Shops with living accommodation	572	91
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	88	59
Temporary Buildings	—	214
TOTAL	13,035	7,089
Rateable Value	£430,779	£185,695

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ...	369	332	701	189	165	354
Illegitimate ...	14	10	24	12	12	24
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...			16.4			13.3
Stillbirths	10	4	14	2	5	7
Deaths	264	269	533	109	109	218
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			12.0			7.7

Deaths from Pregnancy,
Child Birth, Abortion.

	Deaths 1	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths) 1.4	Deaths 1	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths) 2.6
--	-------------	--	-------------	--

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of age.

	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate	12	8	20	7	2	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1	1	2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births ...		27.6			29.1	
Combined Rate			28.1			
Neonatal Death Rate		19.3			26.5	

The following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947.

	DEATH RATE		BIRTH RATE		INFANT MORTALITY RATE	
Year	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1

Causes of Death.

CAUSE OF DEATH	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	M	F	M	F
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	6	6	3	1
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	1
3 Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	1	—
4 Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
6 Meningococcal infections ...	—	1	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8 Measles ...	—	—	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1	2	—
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	13	4	2	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	13	1	4	2
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	14	—	5
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	3	—	—
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	15	15	8	8
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	4	—	—
16 Diabetes ...	2	3	—	2
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	35	3	14
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	44	19	15	11
19 Hypertension ...	18	16	2	9
20 Other heart disease ...	43	17	25	24
21 Other circulatory disease ...	7	4	3	5
22 Influenza ...	3	4	4	—
23 Pneumonia ...	12	18	1	3
24 Bronchitis ...	17	12	8	3
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ...	6	—	4	—
26 Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	7	4	2	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2	1
28 Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	5	—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ...	7	—	3	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	—	1
31 Congenital malformations ...	2	2	1	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	22	19	9	14
33 Motor vehicle accidents ...	5	2	6	—
34 All other accidents ...	2	4	—	2
35 Suicide ...	1	1	1	—
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	264	269	109	109

108 Cancer

297 Heart Disease

**Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality
and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951.**
Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popula- tion 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
<i>Births</i>				
Live births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
<i>Deaths</i>				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid & paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping cough ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioence- phalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal infec- tion	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping cough ...	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioence- phalitis) Paralytic ...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
<i>Deaths</i>				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

	Intermediate List No. and cause	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	70	0.10	
A116	Abortion with toxæmia ...	3	0.00	0
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and other puerperium ...	167	0.24	
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	4
A119	Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A120	Other complications of preg- nancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY. **(Combined figures for two authorities).**

CAUSE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	13	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	13
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	4	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Other Causes	4	—	—	—	4	—	1	1	—	6
All Causes	22	1	1	—	24	—	3	4	—	31

It will be noted that there are two outstanding causes of death—Cancer and Heart Disease.

Now Cancer is a disease affecting chiefly those over 40 and death is rare under the age of 50. Fifty years ago the average age at death was just about 50. Obviously if the numbers surviving to a greater age increase and the average age at death is now just under 70, many more people will be affected by a disease affecting those over 50 and rare below that age. This undoubtedly accounts for some of the increase in deaths from Cancer over the last few decades but it is by no means all. X-Rays and other diagnostic aids ensure that a far bigger proportion of Cancer cases are diagnosed and the true cause of death given than was the case fifty years ago. Still allowing for both these factors Cancer seems to be increasing and so far in spite of all the research which has been done we seem to have made very little progress in either prevention or treatment, though Cancer of certain sites, e.g. lip, once common, are seldom seen now.

The apparently rising incidence of Heart Disease is different. True, the steady increase in expectation of life will cause more people to die of "Heart Disease" but in reality it is very doubtful if "Heart Disease" is a true label. Life must end sometime and in the aged the true cause of death, but unfortunately one not recognised by the Registrar General is "Old Age" or "Worn Out."

It will be noted that there were two maternal deaths. Neither was directly attributable to pregnancy or even its complications but they suffered from other diseases which, but for the fact of pregnancy, probably would not have been fatal.

A rather curious feature of the vital statistics is the comparatively high birth rates and death rates in the City compared with the Rural District. Generally speaking a high birth rate applies in an area where the average age of the population is low with, of course, a low death rate, but both rates are markedly lower in the Rural District than in the City. I can give no satisfactory explanation.

The combined Infant Mortality rate is about the same as for 1950 and is slightly below the average for the country. Of the 31 actual deaths which occurred 22 survived less than seven days and many of these less than one day. Premature birth was by far the greatest single cause—congenital malformation being second.

Section B.**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA****Welfare Centres and Clinics.****Bricket Wood.—The Social Club, Oak Avenue.**

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2—4 p.m.
(Dr. attends 2nd).

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m. at Nurse's Cottage,
Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone Garston 2183).

Colney Heath.—The Pavilion.

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30—4 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local school.

Harpenden.—Memorial Hospital (Harpenden 3696)

Ante-Natal - Mondays 2—4 p.m.

Orthopaedic - Saturdays a.m. (Once monthly surgeon attends).

40, Luton Road (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.

Minor Ailments Wednesdays 9 a.m.—1 p.m. (Dr. attends).

Speech Therapy - Thursdays 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 1.45—4.30 p.m.

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 1.45—4.30 p.m.

London Colney.—Primary School, King's Head Lane.

Minor Ailments Fridays 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
(Dr. attends 2nd and 4th).

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 1.45—4.30 p.m.

Redbourn.—Congregational Hall.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Minor Ailments treated 8.15—8.30 a.m. and 6.15—6.45 p.m. at
nurse's residence, 18 Bettespol Meadows. (Telephone Redbourn 251).

St. Albans.—The Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Mondays 1.30—4 p.m.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road.

Infant Weighing 2nd and 4th Fridays 2—4 p.m.

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 5002 and 4926).

Immunisation and Mondays, 9 a.m.—12 noon.

Minor Ailments - Doctor attends 9.30 a.m.

- Dental - - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Saturdays, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 2—5 p.m.
- Orthoptic - - Mondays 9 a.m.—12 noon as required.
Tuesday and Fridays 9 a.m.—12 noon.
Thursdays and Fridays 2—4.30 p.m.
- Ophthalmic - - Tuesday 10 a.m.—12 noon.
Mondays and Tuesdays 1.30—3.30 p.m.
- Speech - - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30—4.30 p.m.
- Ante-Natal - - Wednesdays 9.30—11.30 a.m.
- Infant Welfare - - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1.30—4 p.m.
Doctor attends Wednesdays and Fridays.
Foods issued Tuesdays and Fridays.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 5431)

- Orthopaedic - - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays all day.
Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday p.m. and 2nd Friday p.m.

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 2211)

- V.D. (Women) - - Tuesdays 5—7 p.m. and Fridays 2—4 p.m.
V.D. (Men) - - Wednesdays 2—4 p.m. and Fridays 5—7 p.m.
Post-Natal - - Wednesdays 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic - - Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. (children).
Mondays 2 p.m. (St. Albans patients).

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 5555)

- Child Guidance - - Mondays to Fridays a.m. and p.m.

Sandridge.—The Parish Hall.

- Infant Weighing 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.30—3.30 p.m.
Minor Ailments treated between 4 and 5 p.m. at nurse's residence, 2 Reynold's Crescent (St. Albans 4985), or in children's own homes if necessary.

Shenley

- Minor Ailments treated at school.
Nurse's address—"Elsyna," Main Road, London Colney. (Bowmans-green 3189).

Wheathampstead.—Mead Hall, East Lane.

- Talks to Mothers 1st Friday 3 p.m.
Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Fridays 2.30—4 p.m.
Dr. attends 3 p.m. on 4th Fridays.
Ante-Natal - 4th Fridays (combined with above).
Minor Ailments treated 8.30—9 a.m. at nurse's residence, Inez Cottage, Luton Road (Wheathampstead 3123).

National Health Service Act.

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford. I need only mention the Home Help Service, Ambulance Service and supervision of County Council Cars.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

It will be noticed that the calls on the Ambulance Service are again up. Every endeavour is made to check abuse of this service but there would appear to be at least an equally strong case for imposing a charge for the use of an ambulance as there is for the imposition of a charge for prescriptions etc. which has just come into force.

I do not suggest the full cost being recovered but a charge of say 50% above what it would cost for the journey by bus and train, would I feel sure considerably lower the demands made on this service.

Ambulance Service.

I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information:—

The following statistics show once again an increase in calls over the previous year. There has been no increase in establishment of personnel and vehicles, although several new men have been recruited to replace men who have left the Service.

In August, 1951, the scheme for the control of ambulances and cars by radio was put into operation. The approximate working range is between twenty and thirty miles and it is often possible to contact vehicles delivering patients in London and direct them to other hospitals etc. before they return to their Home stations.

The master station for the West Division is installed at St. Albans, working at 100 watts power, and each time an ambulance leaves its station it reports its movements to the Control. The vehicle can then be redirected as required by radio.

Substantial savings in time and mileage have been possible and the usefulness of radio contact for checking addresses, receiving information of accidents and obtaining other vital guidance is obvious. Without the introduction of wireless control it is evident that the Service would have reached breaking point and even with

its advent the increase in work has made things such that the Service is constantly operating at very high pressure. There is a saving of mileage of something of the order of 1,000 miles per week in this Division and vehicles are re-directed over a 100 times each week to deal with additional cases or diverted from routine calls to emergencies.

Summary of Calls

Accident	Sudden Illness	Removals	Maternity	Total
468	208	8,195	383	9,254

Hospitals.

I am indebted to F. Stanford, Esq., Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee for the following information:—

The allocation of beds is as follows:—

			Osterhills Unit	Sisters' Unit	Mid-Herts Unit	Bricket House
General	...	...	61	31	95	12
Chronic Sick	...	...	64	—	—	—
Fever	...	...	—	32	—	—
Sick Children	...	...	25	—	15	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	—	31	—	—
Mental	...	...	—	—	—	—
Maternity	...	...	44	—	—	9
Others	...	...	6	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	*200	94	110	21

* In addition to these beds at the Osterhills Unit accommodation is also provided for 179 aged and infirm persons (and 50 beds for warefarers who pass through the Reception Centre) for and on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council.

I have been elected a member of the St. Albans Area Medical Advisory Committee of the Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, and the St. Albans City Hospital Sub Committee.

School Medical Service.

Parents take an active interest in Medical Examinations, and at the great majority of routine inspections a parent is present.

Pes Plano-Valgus is a common foot defect, which however appears to cause very little disability at this age, among the older school children it is common in boys.

Genu Valgus is frequently found in the five year olds but seldom in the older age groups.

Hallux Valgus is not often seen below the age of eleven, but is frequently found in older girls, probably due to unsuitably shaped shoes; on enquiring the Mothers of these girls are often found to suffer from "bunions."

Overriding toes are also relatively frequent but cause little disability.

Among posture defects round shoulders without bony deformity are far too common, even among the youngest children; at the school leaving age the girls take more care in their appearance and carry themselves better than the boys, who are frequently very round shouldered. Pigeon chest is more commonly found in boys and is often associated with small chest expansion and poorly developed musculature generally.

Persistent mouth breathing is far too common, especially among young boys.

The rate of provision of spectacles has been greatly speeded up and it is now only a matter of a few weeks; unfortunately it is often found at follow-ups that the children are not wearing their spectacles, generally because they have forgotten to bring them to school.

Verminous conditions are rarely found.

The general standard of health and nutrition was good, a few cases of malnutrition were seen, but these often refused to have school lunches, preferring to go home for a mid-day meal of bread and jam or other carbohydrates.

Separate figures are not available for this area but the following Tables which relate to the St. Albans Division of the Hertfordshire County Council and which include Elstree, and Harpenden which have been obtained from the Divisional Health Office, may be of interest:—

		School Population	No. of Schools	No. of Depts.
Primary	... ..	7272	39	35
Secondary	... ..	3720	9	11
TOTAL	... ..	10992	39	46

Periodic Medical Inspections

Number of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups

Entrants	... ..	1,804
Second Age Group	... ..	866
Third Age Group	... ..	963
Total	... ..	3,633

Number of other Periodic Inspections 1,127

Grand Total 4,760

Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	... ..	1,381
Number of Re-inspections	... ..	3,589
Total	... ..	4,970

Defects Found by Medical Inspection

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspection No. of Defects		Special Inspection No. of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
Skin	102	117	155	1
Eyes (a) Vision	226	365	74	7
(b) Squint	41	53	4	—
(c) Other	35	64	70	2
Ears (a) Hearing	15	22	22	3
(b) Otitis Media	5	18	9	—
(c) Other	15	44	15	4
Nose or Throat	176	806	32	16
Speech	38	26	9	3
Cervical Glands	28	554	3	11
Heart and Circulation	43	195	14	7
Lungs	32	113	10	5
Developmental				
(a) Hernia	9	29	—	1
(b) Other	5	18	1	1
Orthopaedic				
(a) Posture	106	111	9	3
(b) Flat Foot	256	212	9	3
(c) Other	148	161	22	4
Nervous System				
(a) Epilepsy	2	6	—	—
(b) Other	10	39	3	3
Psychological				
(a) Development	5	39	10	3
(b) Stability	9	55	12	6
Other	68	81	526	4

Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected During the Year in the Age Groups

Age Groups	No. of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of column (2)	No.	% of column (2)	No.	% of column (2)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1,804	927	51.4	842	46.7	35	1.9
Second age group	866	416	48.0	432	49.9	18	2.1
Third age group	963	451	46.8	501	52.0	11	1.2
Other periodic Inspections	1,127	500	44.4	602	54.3	25	2.2
TOTALS	4,760	2,294	48.2	2,377	49.9	89	1.9

Infestation With Vermin

Total number of examinations by the school nurses	45,818
Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	41

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Herts. County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child not over school age, within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Department Staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations. No-one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

Day Nurseries.

There are three Day Nurseries in the St. Albans Division; two in the City of St. Albans and one in Elstree.

All these Nurseries have long waiting lists; so much so that the County Council had to make a definite priority scheme for admission of children.

Health Visiting.

There are 17 nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old Peoples Homes.

There are 5 Registered Nursing Homes in this area and 7 Registered Old Peoples Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA****Water Supplies.**

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Considerable progress has been made in the Colne Valley sewerage scheme and about 50% of the City sewage is now being dealt with by the board. This has relieved the strain on the Park Street sewage works and it is expected that by the end of 1952 the use of these works will be discontinued.

Progress in the Rural District has been reasonably good and I would refer to Mr. Graham's report thereon.

Pigbins.

These, alas, are still with us in the City. Many complaints are received—usually asking that a bin be removed to some other site.

One comment I would make, however, is the excellent quality and design of the bins now in use. These are slightly conical and have plain, not fluted sides; in fact shaped like a child's seaside sand pail, which as we all know, empties wet contents cleanly and entirely. I would strongly recommend bins of this nature to all householders. The ease of emptying will obviate much banging and bumping in emptying and hence they will last much longer.

Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths in the area—one in the City and two in the Rural District—have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths.

These have been going now for over a year and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized that this service is a Public Health service and cannot be expected to be financially self supporting but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase, not decrease, the gap.

Mortuary.

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary:—

Adult—Males	...	...	...	...	46
„ Females	...	...	...	...	26
Children—Males	...	...	...	...	5
„ Females	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Post Mortems	...	...	...	...	79

Section D.**HOUSING**

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reasons for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the housing points scheme.

CARAVANS. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269.

The caravan problem is becoming increasingly difficult especially in St. Albans Rural District. With the continued housing shortage more people are trying to solve their housing problem by the purchase of a caravan and many such caravans are certainly better than living in overcrowded houses or houses which ought to be demolished.

But a caravan suitable for a married couple without children becomes a bit of a problem when in due course the children arrive. Then there is an urgent application for a Council House. So local authorities are naturally a bit chary in allowing many caravans in their area.

Section E.**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****Food Poisoning Outbreaks.**

Total No. of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organisms or Other Agents Responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each	Foods Involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each
1	1	—	Salmonella Typhimurium	Not Known

Clean Food Campaign.

The new bye laws have undoubtedly improved food handling but much remains to be done.

Notices asking dog owners not to take dogs into food shops have been issued to shop keepers but in many cases such notices are not displayed, or if they are, they are so placed as to be almost useless. The correct place is in the shop window where they can be seen before, not after, the customer and dog have entered the shop.

The City market stalls have improved but are still by no means satisfactory. The only practical means of ensuring satisfactory stalls with means for washing food handlers' hands is for the corporation to provide suitable stalls and charge an economic rent, or possibly sell them to the stallholders—all other stalls for selling food being forbidden.

Section F.**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES****Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1951.**

				St. Albans City Notified Deaths		St. Alban R.D.C. Notified Deaths	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	26	—	30	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	25	—	21	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6	—	5	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	3	1	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	10	—	50	—
Measles	...	...	...	355	—	371	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	174	—	91	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	65	—	16	—

Poliomyelitis.

Only one case was notified during the year.

Smallpox.

There were no cases during 1951.

Vaccination.

The following figures relate to the St. Albans Division of the Herts. County Council. No separate figures are available for St. Albans City and Rural District, but the figures give a general idea of the number of persons who are being vaccinated in the St. Albans area.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1951.

Age at 31st December	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	623	97	87	73	880
Number re-vaccinated ...	—	3	45	299	347
Number of Cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) ...					
					Nil
Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division ...					1,557
Primary vaccination rate per 100 births ...					56.5

The policy in regard to vaccination is to encourage vaccination by all means in our power below the age of 1 year. After that age the risk, though at all times very small, of complications rises and unless Smallpox is about we do not press for primary vaccination over the age of 12 months.

For those going abroad and for certain services vaccination is compulsory. Re-vaccination after primary vaccination in infancy carries no appreciable risk of complications. It is therefore in the interest of the child that he should be vaccinated in infancy, preferably at 3 months of age so that if later in life he wishes to go abroad or enter some occupation requiring vaccination he may be re-vaccinated without the admittedly slight risk of complications.

Diphtheria.

One case was notified during the year. This serves as a reminder that the disease has not disappeared and that active immunisation is still necessary.

The recommended procedure now is 0.5 c.c. A.P.T. as soon after 6 months of age as possible and a second injection of 0.5 c.c. A.P.T. at 12 months but with a minimum interval of 1 month.

The reinforcing dose of 0.5 c.c. should be given at the age of 5 years.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Immunisation is carried out by private practitioners and assistant County Medical Officers. No separate figures are available for St. Albans City or Rural District, but the following figures

which relate to the St. Albans Division of the Herts. County Council which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C., obtained from the Divisional Health Office will be of interest.

Number of Children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authorities' Area (including temporary residents) in 1951

Total Number of Children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to complete full course).

Age at date of Final Injection		Total	
Under 5.	5 to 14		
1,129	47	1,176	537
Births for the same area	...	...	...
Primary Immunisation Rate per 100 births	...	...	75.5

Tuberculosis.

Cases on Register as at 31st December, 1951.

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTALS
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City	179 (128)	74 (74)	30 (39)	26 (35)	309 (276)
St. Albans R.D.C.	96 (90)	86 (80)	23 (26)	25 (28)	230 (224)
TOTALS ...	275 (218)	160 (154)	53 (65)	51 (63)	539 (500)

Figures as at 31st December, 1950, are in brackets.

Whooping Cough and Measles.

These were both much less prevalent than in 1950. We try to do all we can to prevent these diseases in very young children where the danger is greatest but as practically everyone gets them sooner or later I feel it is better to get them over and done with before the age of 10. From 3 to 10 years the diseases are at their mildest and if they arise later they may seriously interfere with examinations and earnings. It is extremely rare for either disease to affect a person more than once.

Whooping Cough is, however, a very distressing disease and in fact it does kill, chiefly in very young children, more than all the other infectious diseases put together. The search for an efficient vaccine to give protection has been long and up to now disappointing but at last we seem to have succeeded and I am in a position to recommend vaccination against Whooping Cough in children up to 18 months only.

The recommended procedure is vaccination against Smallpox at 3 months, first Whooping Cough vaccine dose at 4 months, second at 5 months and third at 6 months. The first Diphtheria immunisation dose can also be given at 6 months but with a separate syringe and on a different site. So far no combined Whooping Cough-Diphtheria vaccine has proved efficient. The second Diphtheria immunisation should be given at 12 months.

It will be seen that this timetable involved 1 scarification (for Smallpox) and 5 injections but at present we cannot avoid this. We hope that soon a satisfactory combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria vaccine will be produced so bringing the injections down to 3 or possibly 2. Reactions are more marked in Whooping Cough vaccine than Diphtheria immunisation.

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
43 Upper Lattimore Road,
St. Albans.

May, 1952.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1951.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies of the area received close attention and a total of 94 samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

In July the water main was extended into Park Lane, Colney Heath where the supplies from wells had been found to be unreliable and unsatisfactory. The laying of the main in Lye Lane, St. Stephens was almost completed at the end of the year.

In May applications were made by the St. Albans Sand & Gravel Company to the Hertfordshire County Council and the St. Albans Rural District Council under Section 26 of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935 for consents to deposit in a disused gravel pit at Colney Heath Lane a large volume of material which had been produced as a waste product in the manufacture of acetylene by the British Oxygen Company Ltd. of Willesden, Middlesex. The question of whether consents should be granted hinged largely on whether the underground water resources were likely to be affected adversely. In conjunction with the County Council extensive investigations were carried out and, on the information available, both authorities decided to grant consents. Depositing commenced on the 15th October 1951 and since that date certain wells in the locality have been subjected to regular sampling. So far there is no evidence to suggest that the material has had any deleterious effects on the water supplies.

Of the 6,875 permanent dwellings in the district 6,333 or 92.12% are supplied from waterworks. Of these 6,026 or 95.15% are supplied from water mains direct to the houses and the remaining 4.85% by means of standpipes. The supplies are constant in every case and there is no evidence of liability to plumbo-solvent action. In the case of one Estate Supply serving a small number of houses some concern was felt regarding the quality of the water and, as a precautionary measure, chlorinating apparatus was installed and all water going into supply is being systematically chlorinated. The quality of the mains water in all other cases was satisfactory.

List of Water Suppliers operating in the St. Albans Rural District and Number of dwellings supplied by each.

SUPPLIER	Number of Dwellings Supplied		Total
	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES	BY MEANS OF STAND-PIPES	
St. Albans Rural District Council:—			
Redbourn	942	30	972
Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply)	33	14	47
St. Albans Waterworks Company	3037	68	3105
Harpenden Water Company	932	131	1063
The Barnet District Water Company	407	22	429
The Colne Valley Water Company	264	42	306
Borough of Hemel Hempstead	32	—	32
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company	36	—	36
Hill End Hospital and Cell Barnes Colony Estate	119	—	119
Napsbury Hospital Estates	49	—	49
Harperbury Hospital Estate	35	—	35
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners)	71	—	71
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans	69	—	69
TOTALS	6026	307	6333

WATER SUPPLIES

Details of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks

PARISH	Water Undertakers supplying in Parish	Number of dwellings supplied		Total No. of dwellings in Parish supplied from Water-works	Total No. of dwellings in each Parish (excluding temporary buildings)
		Direct to the Houses	By means of Standpipes		
Sandridge	St. Albans Waterworks Company	519	55	595	660
	Childwickbury Estate Supply	6	—		
	Harpenden Water Company	14	1		
	Harpenden Water Company	831	124	960	1065
	Childwickbury Estate Supply	5	—	93	125
Wheathampstead	Harpenden Water Company	87	6		
	St. Albans Rural District Council	942	30	1014	1075
	Gorhamby Estate Supply (Crown)	25	...		
	Borough of Hemel Hempstead	9	—		
	Childwickbury Estate Supply	8	—		
St. Michael's Rural	Borough of Hemel Hempstead	23	—		
	St. Albans Waterworks Company	34	—	170	203
	Childwickbury Estate Supply	50	—		
	Gorhamby Estate Supply (Crown)	46	—		
	Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co.	17	—		
St. Stephen's	The Colne Valley Water Company	212	36		
	St. Albans Waterworks Company	1205	13	1501	1532
	Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co.	19	—		
	Harperbury Hospital Estate Supply	16	—		
	St. Albans Waterworks Company	1145	—		
London Colney	The Colne Valley Water Company	52	6		
	Harperbury Hospital Estate Supply	19	—	1290	1359
	Napsbury Hospital Estate Supply	49	—		
	Hill End Hospital Supply	19	—		
	Tythenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply	33	14		
Colney Heath	St. Albans Waterworks Company	134	—	710	856
	The Barnet District Water Company	407	22		
	Hill End Hospital Supply	100	—		

SWIMMING BATHS

There are two swimming baths not under the Council's management which are open to the public and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors they are used extensively by the schools. At each the system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season and samples were taken at regular intervals.

By agreement with the manager a swimming pool which is maintained in connection with a private recreation club and used by a considerable number of members was sampled regularly throughout the summer.

HOUSING

As a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 as amended by Section 1 of the Housing Act 1949 four dwelling houses were demolished. In the case of two other houses the owner gave an undertaking under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act 1936 that he would within a specified period carry out such works as would render the houses fit for human habitation.

At the 31st December 1951 the following ten houses which are the subjects of demolition or clearance orders were being used under licence for human habitation:—

28 High Street, Sandridge.

30 High Street, Sandridge.

32 High Street, Sandridge.

56 High Street, Sandridge.

58 High Street, Sandridge.

Cottage adjoining Barton House, Brewhouse Hill, Wheat-
hamstead occupied by Mr. Hyett.

Two Timber Cottages at Lower Gustard Wood, Wheat-
hamstead, occupied by Mr. John and Mr. Coates.

13 Hemel Hempstead Road, Redbourn.

9 Park Lane, Colney Heath.

In a number of cases where demolition orders have been made the work of demolition has not been carried out within the specified time nor within a reasonable time thereafter. Section 13 (1) of the Housing Act 1936 provides that:—

“ When a demolition order under this Part of this Act has become operative, the owner or owners of the house to which it applies shall demolish that house within the time limited in that behalf by the order; and, if the house is not demolished within that time, the local authority shall enter and demolish the house and sell the materials thereof.”

There are instances too where dwellings have been demolished in accordance with the requirements of demolition orders made by the Council but where the sites have been left untidy and derelict and in a condition which must be regarded as detrimental to the amenities of the locality. Some of these sites front on to busy arterial roads. In such cases it would seem that action could be taken under Section 33 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 which provides that:—

“If it appears to a local planning authority that the amenity of any part of the area of that authority, or of any adjoining area, is seriously injured by the condition of any garden, vacant site or other open land in their area, then, subject to any directions given by the Minister, the authority may serve on the owner and occupier of the land, in the manner prescribed by regulations under this Act, a notice requiring such steps for abating the injury as may be specified in the notice to be taken within such period as may be so specified.”

Nuisances.

One hundred and forty-four complaints of alleged nuisances were received and of these 109 were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action, leaving 35 outstanding at the end of the year.

Notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were served in four cases. In three of these the nuisances were abated within the required periods. In the remaining case it was found necessary to take Court proceedings and the Magistrates made an Order requiring the defendant to comply with all the requirements of the Abatement Notice.

Replacement of Pail Closets by Waterclosets.

During the year 52 pail closets were replaced by waterclosets. The Council's policy with respect to contributions towards the cost of replacements is playing a notable part in the rapid elimination of these undesirable fittings whenever sufficient water supply and sewerage facilities become available.

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences were provided at London Colney and at Redbourn. At London Colney they were opened on the 12th April and at Redbourn on the 2nd August.

The question of the provision of public conveniences at Wheat-hampstead is under consideration.

I am indebted to Miss C. I. Sharpe, the Council's Housing Welfare Officer, for the following Housing Statistics:—

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COUNCIL UP TO DECEMBER, 1951.					ANALYSIS SHOWING HOUSING PROGRESS FROM JANUARY 1st TO DECEMBER 31st, 1951					No of Agricul- tural Workers from out- side areas housed in Parishes
Parish	Pre-War Houses	Post- War Houses	Req. and acquired and Temporary Hutments	Total	New Houses completed in 1951	No. of properties vacated in 1951 other than by transfer	No. of families re-housed in 1951	Families re-housed from Req. Property and Temporary Hutments		
LONDON COLNEY ...	100	195	3	298	86	4	36	—	—	
REDBOURN ...	128	112	1	241	17	6	20	2	—	
ST. STEPHEN'S ...	34	74	1	109	—	3	13	—	—	
COLNEY HEATH ...	108	20	4	132	—	1	17	—	—	
SANDRIDGE ...	54	76	1	131	—	—	18	—	—	
WHEATHAMPSTEAD...	90	99	7	196	24	3	16	6	1	
ST. MICHAEL'S ...	16	—	9	25	—	2	—	16	—	
HARPENDEN RURAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
CITY AREA ...	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	530	576	29	1135	127	19	121	24†	1	

† The number of properties de-requisitioned and temporary hutments no longer habitable.

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling house Excluding Temporary Buildings	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Totals
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	5	6725	230	236	7196
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(a) —	250	—	34	284
	(b) 5	135	66	9	215
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major 4	10	6	4	24
	Minor 4	194	13	27	238
Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority ...	5	234	—	12	251

Close liaison was maintained with the Pest Control Officer of the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee with respect to any infestation on agricultural lands and in co-operation with him we were able to ensure that all necessary control measures were put in hand.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

As shown in the statistical table there were in the district at 6th November 1951 a total of 163 moveable dwellings located on 90 sites. These figures are exclusive of caravans in use by persons of the nomadic type who come on to the various Commons from time to time and often in quite alarming numbers. It is regrettable that many of these roving peoples have little desire to maintain the surroundings of their homes in a clean and tidy condition and by their disregard for the amenities they seriously restrict the use and enjoyment of the Commons by members of the general public.

At Nomansland Common in the Parishes of Wheathampstead and Sandridge there has been quite an influx of caravan dwellers and the condition of this Common has so deteriorated that the Council are preparing a scheme of control under the Commons Act, 1899.

**Table showing the number of moveable dwellings in the district at 6th November, 1951
other than moveable dwellings on Common Lands, the number of sites used by
them and the services available thereat.**

Parish	Total number of occupied moveable dwellings in stationed in the district at 6th November, 1951	Number of sites on which these moveable dwellings are stationed	Maximum number of occupied moveable dwellings on any one site	Number of sites with main drainage	Number of sites where foul drainage is disposed of in cesspools	Number of sites provided with water-closet sanitation	Number of sites served by a mains water supply
LONDON COLNEY	15	6	9	2	Nil	2	6
ST. STEPHEN'S	75	42	11	1	7	7	35
ST. MICHAEL'S	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
REDBOURN	12	4	8	3	Nil	3	3
HARPENDEN RURAL	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
WHEATHAMPSTEAD	15	11	2	3	Nil	3	5
SANDRIDGE	3	3	1	2	Nil	1	3
COLNEY HEATH	41	22	12	1	8	4	16
TOTAL	163	90	—	12	15	20	68

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Lea Valley Sewerage Scheme to serve the Lower Luton Road area of Wheathampstead Parish was completed in June.

Work on the important sewerage scheme to serve the Parish of St. Stephens proceeded throughout the year. The unusually wet weather caused some adjustment in the programme but by September the Bricket Wood section which serves the southern end of Mount Pleasant Lane, part of Oakwood Road, part of Lye Lane, part of Upper Lye Lane, the Christmas Estate and properties in the vicinity of Bricket Wood Railway Station had been completed and was taken over by the Council. This gave a measure of relief in the work of cesspool cleansing.

An Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning visited the district on the 20th September 1951 in connection with the proposed sewerage scheme for the Parish of Colney Heath. Because of the unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements in many parts of the Parish and in particular at High Street, Colney Heath and in that small section of Camp Road, St. Albans which is within the Rural District, it is hoped that everything possible will be done to enable the scheme to go forward. It is to be hoped also that early measures can be taken to provide sewerage facilities to serve that part of the Parish of London Colney which lies south of the River Colne as the sanitary arrangements in that locality and in particular at Lowbell Lane are exceptionally unsatisfactory.

Registrations Under Section 14—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Forty-seven premises are used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream or preserved food, etc. Of these, thirty-nine are registered for the sale of ice cream and two are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

Other Food Preparing Premises.

In the district there are nine bakehouses, three fish-frying premises and sixteen cafes.

At one of the bakehouses the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 were not being observed and considerable pressure was brought to bear on the proprietors in order to secure improvements. The response was not satisfactory but at the end of the year negotiations for the sale of the property had reached an advanced stage and the use of the building for the purposes of a bakehouse is to be discontinued.

Of the sixteen cafes, nine cater in the main for Road Transport Workers. The water supply at one of the Transport Cafes gave cause for concern and arrangements are in hand to lay a mains supply to the premises.

The Education Authority have two cooking centres in the district where a total of 2,560 main meals are prepared daily when the schools are open. At four County Council schools the food is prepared on the premises and at these a total of 770 main meals are prepared and served daily.

At six factory canteens a total of 570 main meals are prepared and served daily.

MILK

The following tables give details of current registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dairy Premises other than Dairy Farms.	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributors elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm.		
	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District.	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises.	From Premises outside the St. Albans Rural District.
11	5	6	8

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested."	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited."
2	9	1	1

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised."	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised."	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised."
4	11	6	4

Biological sampling of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Under the provisions of Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 the Hertfordshire County Council have operated a scheme whereby representative milk samples are taken for biological examination at intervals of nine months from all milk-producing herds in the County, including tuberculin-tested herds. This procedure has been slightly modified and as from the 30th September 1951 tuberculin-tested herds are being sampled at intervals of 12 months, but samples from accredited and non-designated herds are being taken at intervals of six months.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	9	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	63	52	5	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	*13	—	—	Nil

* The thirteen "other premises" include eleven Council Sites upon which building operations or civil engineering works were in progress and these were under the regular and close supervision of the Council's Officers.

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	3	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	5	1	Nil	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 14,062 animals were slaughtered by the Ministry of Food at the Government Slaughterhouse, Sandridge. Details are as follows:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Carcases inspected	3559	869	2,160	5,763	1,711

CONDEMNATIONS

	Carcases	Qtrs. of Beef	Heads	Lights	Livers	Liver Trim- mings (lbs.)	Plucks	Misc. pieces of Beef Mutton and Pork
Beasts ...	28	25	300	498	657	3,041	—	
Calves ...	6	—	—	—	4	—	5	1,021
Sheep ...	8	—	—	11	180	20	4	lbs.
Pigs ...	7	—	39	19	6	—	15	

I am grateful to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, City of St. Albans, and his staff for their co-operation in this onerous duty.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Cleansing is carried out by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.
Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A new 10 cubic yard Austin five-ton side-loading vehicle with Eagle body was put into service in April, thus bringing the number of vehicles up to six, five being in regular use and one held as a spare machine.

During the year arrangements were entered into for dealing with the problem of refuse at two large hospitals in the district where very frequent collections are essential. In one case a twice-weekly collection was inaugurated and in the second case an arrangement was concluded whereby the Council installed a small Heenan & Froude incinerator at the hospital on the understanding that the hospital authority would operate and maintain the plant and continue to be responsible for the collection of the refuse from the hospital. The arrangement is to operate for a period of 15 years. The construction of the incinerator was completed in December and was put into use at the end of the year.

All household refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. Three sites are used, viz., the Gravel Pit, Nomansland Common in the Parish of Sandridge; the Chalk Pit at Old Parkbury Farm, Harper Lane, nr. Radlett and the Gravel Pit at Tyttenhanger Green. The

Tips are kept under control by manual labour only, but owing to the steadily increasing volume of refuse a point is being reached where the present arrangement cannot be carried on with efficiency and economy nor can the precautions* suggested by the Ministry of Health (now the Ministry of Housing and Local Government) in relation to the prevention of nuisances from refuse tips be fully observed. The matter is being carefully considered and the question of acquiring mechanical equipment to meet our particular needs is being closely examined.

* Printed as an appendix at Page 40.

Salvage.

The following salvage was disposed of during the year ended 31st December, 1951.

	Tons	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	44	10	2	—	564	4	6
Rags	—	2	—	—	2	10	0
				TOTAL	£566	14	6

Nightsoil Collection.

A once-weekly collection is made wherever the service is required and a Bedford vehicle fitted with a purpose-built tank is engaged on the work. Pails are cleansed at 481 dwellings as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Number</i>
St. Stephens Rural	110
London Colney	30
Colney Heath	182
Sandridge	32
Wheathampstead	95
Harpenden Rural	5
Redbourn	15
St. Michaels	12

The figure of 481 shows a reduction of 68 or 12.39 per cent compared with the figure at 31st December 1950 and a further substantial reduction in the number of pail closets is anticipated when the sewerage scheme for the Parish of St. Stephens is completed.

A point has been reached at which the volume of work in connection with nightsoil collection does not justify the retention of a vehicle solely for this service alone and so it has been decided to discontinue using the Bedford vehicle for the purpose and to fit nightsoil emptying equipment to one of our existing Dennis Cess-pool Emptiers and use it as a dual purpose machine. It is proposed to convert the Bedford nightsoil vehicle for use as a breakdown vehicle.

Cesspool Emptying and the Disposal of Cesspool Contents.

A fleet of five Dennis Cesspool Emptiers is being operated, four being in constant use and one held as a spare machine. With a few exceptions where special circumstances obtain all cesspools, other than those which serve properties which are within 100 feet of a public sewer and which are at a level which makes it possible to construct a drain to connect with the public sewer, are cleansed free of charge.

The question of disposal caused great concern at one period as our tenure of the field at Plaistows Farm, St. Stephens which we had been using for the disposal of the cesspool contents from the cesspools in the Parish of St. Stephens expired at 29th September, 1951. Through very good fortune the Bricket Wood Section of the St. Stephens Sewerage Scheme was ready to take a flow three days prior to that date and so on the 26th September we secured the necessary consents to discharge cesspool contents into the new sewer at a point south of Bricket Wood Station and what might have been a serious problem was happily solved.

As will be noted from the statistical table the number of cesspools which were being cleansed at the 31st December 1951 shows a reduction of 71 or 4.49 per cent on the number at 31st December 1950. This reduction was made possible because of the completion during the year of the public sewer at Lower Luton Road, Wheat-hampstead and of the Bricket Wood Section of the Parish of St. Stephens Sewerage Scheme.

Statistics Respecting Cesspools in the District which are Cleansed by the Council (as at 31st December 1951.)

PARISH	Number Cleansed on request	Number Cleansed at regular intervals	Totals (the figures in brackets indicate the numbers at 31st December 1950)	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a Sewer or for other reasons.	Cesspools already included in Column 4 which although within 100 feet of a Sewer are, for various reasons, cleansed free of charge.
(1) St. Stephen's	(2) 920	(3) 8	(4) 928 (944)	(5) —	(6) —
London Colney	23	6	29 (33)	5	—
Colney Heath	190	10	200 (191)	3	—
Sandridge	34	—	34 (29)	7	—
Wheathampstead	138	3	141 (211)	21	1
Harpenden Rural	41	—	41 (42)	1	—
Redbourn	56	—	56 (54)	4	—
St. Michael's	80	—	80 (76)	—	—
TOTALS	1482	27	1509 (1580)	41	1

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1935, SECTION 26.

Under Consents granted by the Hertfordshire County Council and the St. Albans Rural District Council four sites in the Rural District are used for the disposal of refuse collected outside the Rural District as follows:—

Land on the south side of Codicote Road, Wheathampstead known as Black Bridge Tip and which is owned and controlled by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

A disused gravel pit at Broad Colney in the Parish of London Colney which is owned and controlled by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

A gravel pit off Smallford Lane, Smallford, in the Parish of Colney Heath and which is owned and controlled by the St. Albans Sand & Gravel Company.

A gravel pit in Colney Heath Lane in the Parish of Colney Heath, owned and controlled by St. Albans Sand & Gravel Company and in which a very large volume of spent carbide is being deposited.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX

Precautions Suggested by the Ministry of Health (now the Ministry of Housing and Local Government) in relation to dumping and the prevention of Nuisances from Refuse Tips.

Every person who forms a deposit of filth, dust, ashes or rubbish of a nature likely to give rise to a nuisance must, in addition to the observance of any other requirements which are applicable, comply with the following rules:—

- (1) The deposit to be made in layers.
- (2) No layer to exceed * feet in depth.
- (3) Each layer to be covered, on all surfaces exposed to the air, with at least nine inches of earth or other suitable substance; provided that during the formation of any layer not more than † square yards may be left uncovered at any one time.
- (4) No refuse to be left uncovered for more than twenty-four hours from the time of deposit. † †
- (5) Sufficient screens or other suitable apparatus to be provided, where necessary, to prevent paper or other debris from being blown by the wind away from the place of deposit.
- (6) No refuse to be deposited in water.
- (7) All reasonable precautions to be taken to prevent the outbreak of fires and the breeding of flies and vermin in the deposit. Hollow receptacles likely to provide breeding-places for vermin to be flattened or filled before being covered by refuse.
- (8) Deposits consisting entirely or mainly of fish, animal or other organic refuse must be covered forthwith with earth or other equally suitable substance to a depth of at least two feet.
- (9) deposits must be maintained in a tidy condition; tins, hollow vessels and other loose debris must not be left lying on or about the place of deposit.
- (10) Sufficient and competent labour must be provided in connection with the deposit to enable the necessary measures to be taken for the prevention of nuisance.
- (11) So far as practicable each layer of refuse which has been laid and covered with soil must be allowed to settle before the next layer is added.
- (12) Wherever practicable the person making the deposit must avoid raising the surface of the tip above the general level of the adjoining ground.
- (13) All refuse must be disposed of with such despatch and be so protected during transit as to avoid risk of nuisance.

* Unless the circumstances are very exceptional, the depth of the layer should not exceed six feet.

† Appropriate figures should be inserted here after full consideration of local conditions.

† † The object of this is to provide that even the surface which is allowed to remain exposed under (3) shall be covered up promptly. This should be done within twenty-four hours. Normally, this figure should not exceed 2 square yards for every 4 cubic yards of refuse deposited each day to a depth of six feet.

